Dazed' Nixon Worker Gets Suspended Term

MIAMI (AP) — A part-time housekeeper at President Nixon's Key Biscayne retreat has testified she was put in a hypnotic daze by a stranger who told her to shoplift four dresses.

Shirley Cromartie, 32 and a mother of three, pleaded no contest yesterday and was given a suspended sentence after law enforcement officers and a psychiatrist testified [illegible] she was telling the truth.

MRS. CROMARTIE holds a security clearance to work in the Florida White House, according to testimony. She said a woman met her in a parking lot and asked the time, then ordered her to take the items and bring them to her.

Mrs. Cromartie testified she fell into a daze when the young woman released a jasmine-like scent from her left hand. She was told to take the dresses for her children, Mrs. Cromartie said.

"I just sort of lost my will . . . it was a terrifying experience," she told Metro Court Judge Frederick Barad.

The mysterious woman was described as young, attractive and wearing a wig.

MRS. CROMARTIE joined the Key Biscayne White House housekeeping staff about a year, according to FBI agent Leo McClaren. He testified her background was impeccable.

Dr. Albert Jashny, a psychiatrist, said he examined her and found she could be hypnotized "quickly and easily" and believed she was telling the truth.

"But it wasn't the same when he hypnotized me," Mrs. Cromartie said. "I couldn't remember anything afterwards. Whatever that young woman did to me, it was like being in a sleepwalk, only awake."

Judge Barad said: "This is also so bizarre that I'm frightened at what could happen to the President."